Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Cannot our College laboratory undertake the analysis ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* The College laboratory can analyse. But it cannot undertake this work.

RURAL DISPENSARIES—SUPPLY OF MEDICINES AT RATES HIGHER THAN MARKET RATES

48. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the prices at which medicines are supplied to the rural dispensaries in many cases are much higher than the prevailing market rates in the locality, and if so, the reasons for same?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* No such instance has been brought to the notice of Government. But there may be cheap quality medicines in some of the local markets. There may be also instances where merchants, who had got stock before the war, are in a position to sell at a lower rate than the Calcutta, Bombay or Madras rates. At present there is no fixed market rate for any drug due to the war conditions, and if any dealer quotes a lower price, it may be only for a very small quantity.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* The answer itself suggests the possibility of difference. Will the Government be pleased to look into the matter and have a comparative table prepared?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* We call for tenders and we entrust the supply to the lowest tenderer, consistent with quality. It is not possible to ascertain the rates from every shop.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* What happens Sir, is this. We have now raised the amount under supply of medicines; but, as a matter of fact, that does not benefit these dispensaries. There are certain medicines which could be had at a very cheap price.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will the Government be pleased to have a comparative table prepared of at least standard medicines ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* As a matter of fact, some of the medicines, as I have already said, are available cheaper in the local market. But those are medicines such as *Digitalis* and *Ergot* which are not at all good.

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Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The same medicine of the same name and same quantity you get for Rs. 7—8—0, Rs. 15 and Rs. 32.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Have not the Government of India regulated the market price of drugs?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Certainly they have regulated the prices of the German medicines. Not all.

LEPROSY SURVEY IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS— CONDUCT OF

49. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government be pleased to conduct a leprosy survey in all the educational institutions in the State and find out the number of infected children and young men undergoing studies;

(*b*) whether they have conducted any such survey;

(*c*) if so, the figures of cases they have found out and also the action the Government have taken in this matter?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) A survey has already been started by the Special Leprosy officer.

(*b*) Please see answer to (*a*).

(*c*) Out of 3,600 students examined, 21 were found possessing symptoms of leprosy. They were directed to the nearest leper clinic or hospital for treatment.

ALLOPATHIC DRUGGISTS AND COMPOUNDERS— STATISTICS RE.

50. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of allopathic druggists who deal in mixtures of allopathic drugs as per prescriptions made by medical men in the whole of the State;

(*b*) the number of qualified compounders employed by such druggists in each of their shops for mixing allopathic medicines?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):*

(*a*) & (*b*) Government have no information.

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